

The Impact of Coastal Development on Florida Fisheries

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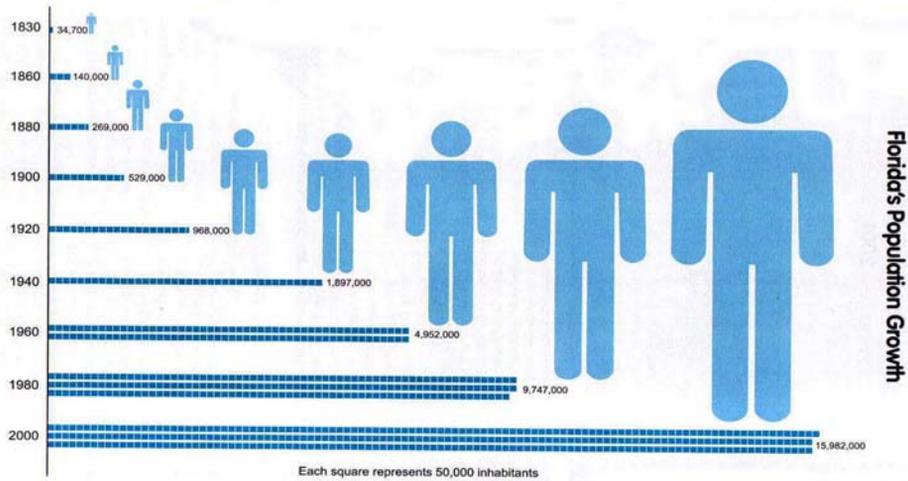
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Objectives:

1. The impacts of population growth on coastal development
2. Habitat loss as a result of coastal development
3. Loss of habitat and strain on local fisheries

Florida's Population Growth

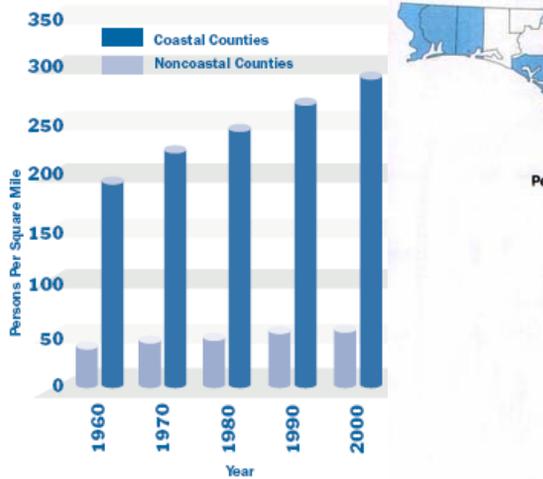
Population will double in the next 20 years¹



¹ www.shiftingbaselines.org

Historical and Projected Densities of Coastal and Noncoastal Counties

For the past 40 years, population density on the coast has been roughly five times that of the country's interior. In 2000, the nation's coastal counties averaged 275 people per square mile. By 2015, the number will rise to 325 people per square mile—an 18 percent increase.



Source: Culliton, 1998.

Coastal development leads to habitat loss

- Mangroves - removed for construction and pest control
- Sea grass beds - ruined by recreational boating
- Coral reefs - eutrophication, sedimentation, boat groundings

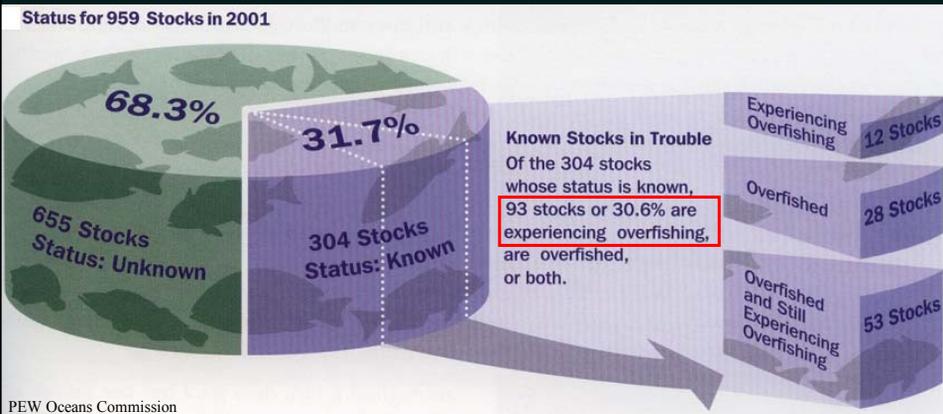


Why habitat loss is a problem:

- Mangroves and sea grasses are nurseries for juvenile sport fish
- Coral reefs provide habitat for 25% of all marine species
- Mangroves and sea grasses prevent coastal erosion



Current status of U.S. fisheries:



Fish stocks are losing their ability to maintain sustainable yields because of habitat loss

REGIONAL OCEAN CONSERVATION CLUB

R.O.C.C.

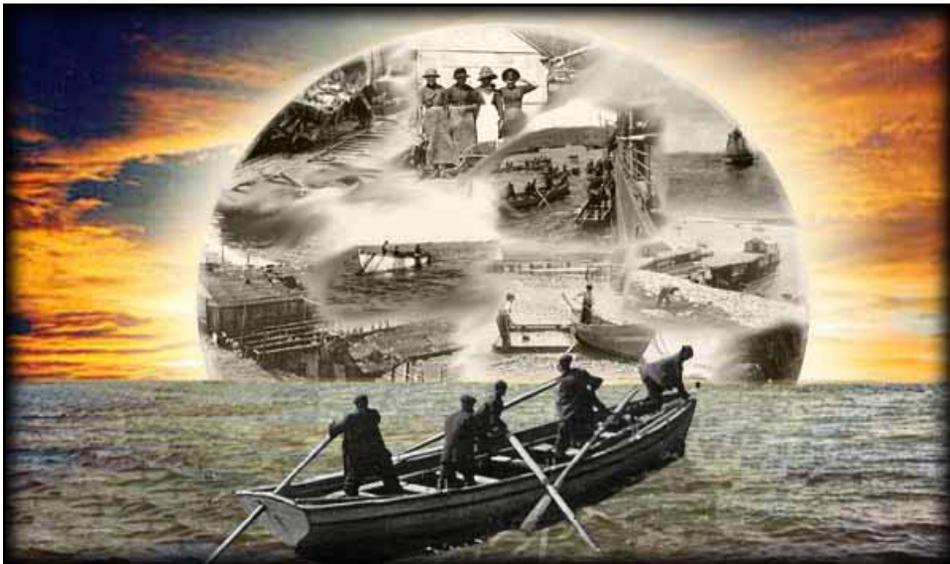
High schools partner with colleges and other agencies to deal with ocean conservation issues

Projects include:

- Re-introduce mangroves, plant sea grasses, and deploy artificial reefs
- Propose tests for boating and fishing licenses
- Post fishing regulations at fishing piers and docking stations with catchy signs
"Have you measured your fish today"
- Volunteer inspectors at dock to check anglers' catch
- Develop recreational guides for tourists
- Contact Discovery Channel or Animal Planet to do a series on Sustainable Fisheries
- Petition the government for stricter regulations on coastal development

Acknowledgements

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THANK YOU